

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOVIETS STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN MIDEAST ROLE

EMBASSY MOSCOW BELIEVES THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE LEADING TOWARD PERMANENT REGIONAL STABILITY. WITH AN OVERRIDING INTEREST IN A SOLUTION WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE THEM TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS AND DETENTE:

--THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PREFER A LOWER LEVEL OF INSTABILITY WHICH WOULD LESSEN THE RISKS OF CONFLICT WITH THE US BUT STILL ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO RETAIN THEIR ARAB CLIENTS.

SUCH A POLICY POINTS UP POSSIBLE CONFLICTS IN THE SOVIET POLICY SINCE:
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--BY RELYING ON THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF GENEVA, THE SOVIETS HAVE AVOIDED FACING UP TO THEIR SHRINKING INFLUENCE IN THE ARAB WORLD, HOPING THIS APPROACH WILL GIVE THEM RENEWED ABILITY TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS THE ARABS'

FRIEND AND PROTECTOR IN PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS.

--SHOULD THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK COLLAPSE OR EVAPORATE, THE SOVIETS, IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THEIR DECLINING POWER BASE, MIGHT PURSUE A POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE EXTREMISTS AND PRESSURE ON REGIMES WHICH HAVE RESISTED SOVIET INFLUENCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SOVIET ADVENTURISM ALONG THESE LINES WOULD IMPAIR THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD THE STABLE MIDDLE EAST WE SEEK AND WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OVER-ALL US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THEREFORE, IT MIGHT BE AS MUCH IN OUR INTERESTS AS IN THAT OF THE SOVIETS TO MAINTAIN THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK IN THE POST-SINAI PERIOD, AT LEAST IN THE NEAR TERM. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 12214, 8/27.)

2. PORTUGAL: BYZANTINE PALACE POLITICS ARE RIFE

CAPTAIN TOMAZ ROSA OF THE ANTUNES NINE TOLD EMBASSY LISBON AUGUST 27 THAT THE MODERATE CAUSE WAS GOING WELL AND THAT COSTA GOMES WOULD REMOVE PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES ON AUGUST 28.

--COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS THE LEADING MILITARY FIGURE BY RENEGING ON HIS SUPPORT FOR THE ANTUNES GROUP THEN LATER REAFFIRMING HIS ALLEGIANCE BY OCCUPYING THE LEFTIST CONTROLLED MILITARY PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICE.

MEANWHILE, CONSULATE PONTA DELGADA REPORTS THAT THE REGIONAL JUNTA FOR THE AZORES TOOK OFFICE AUGUST 26. MEMBERS PREDICT A SHORT LIFE FOR THE NEW BODY DUE TO LACK OF MONEY AND THE UNIVERSAL DESIRE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO FOR NOTHING LESS THAN EXTENSIVE AUTONOMY. (SECRET) LISBON 4960 (EXDIS), AND (CONFIDENTIAL PONTA DELGADA 310, 8/27.)

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3. CYPRUS: MAKARIOS WORRIED ABOUT US ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM?

CLOSE CONFIDANTS AND ASSOCIATES OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS HAVE RECENTLY INTIMATED TO EMBASSY NICOSIA THAT THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS THAT ONLY HE STANDS IN THE WAY OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES:

--MAKARIOS' ONLY GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND ONCE THIS IS OBTAINED HE WILL STEP DOWN.

--IN ANY EVENT, THE ARCHBISHOP WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION IN 1977.

FURTHER, MAKARIOS WOULD BE PREPARED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT

THAT:

--ALLOWED A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF THE REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME;

--RETURNED A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS (LEAVING "SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 25 AND 35 PERCENT IN TURKISH CYPRIOT HANDS");

--CONTAINED EQUITABLE POWER SHARING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT; AND

--PROVIDED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF MOST OF THE TURKISH FORCES ON THE ISLAND.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT MAKARIOS IS VAGUELY WORRIED THAT THE USG, AND PERHAPS CARAMANLIS AS WELL, REGARDS HIM AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO A CYPRUS SOLUTION AND MAY BE CONSIDERING WAYS TO REMOVE HIM. HIS FRIENDS HAVE BEEN TELLING US THAT HE IS INDISPENSABLE FOR A SETTLEMENT AND IF WE WILL ONLY BEAR WITH HIM WE WILL GET BOTH A SOLUTION AND OUR CHOICE (CLERIDES) AS NEXT PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 2623 (LIMDIS), 8/27.)

4. TIMOR: VIOLENCE CONTINUES--SUHARTO WAITS IN WINGS

EMBASSY JAKARTA'S SOURCES REPORT THAT OPEN BATTLE CONTINUES
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IN DILI. AT PRESENT:

--MUCH OF THE VIOLENCE SEEMS TO FOLLOW CLAN AND FAMILY LINES RATHER THAN POLITICAL PARTY DIVISIONS.

--WHILE THE GOVERNOR HAS MOVED TO ATAURO ISLAND, THE INDONESIAN AND ROC CONSULATES IN DILI REMAIN OPEN WITH THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES UNDER THEIR PROTECTION.

--AN INDONESIAN DESTROYER ESCORT WITH ORDERS TO SHOOT IF FIRED UPON HAS ARRIVED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REFUGEE EVACUATION. (OTHER INDONESIAN VESSELS ARE ON THE WAY.)

EMBASSY CONTACTS AGREE THAT SUHARTO IS "MYSTICALLY" SURE TIMOR WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME INDONESIAN. THUS, DRAWING SUPPORT FROM WHITLAM'S DECLARATION OF AUSTRALIAN NON-INTERVENTION, HE AWAITS A SPECIFIC PORTUGUESE REQUEST FOR HIM TO TAKE ACTION.

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAS DECIDED NOT TO INVITE INDONESIAN INTERVENTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4954 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) JAKARTA 10524, 8/24.)

5. BRITISH BELIEVE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT STILL POSSIBLE

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S SPECIAL ADVISER FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBASSY LUSAKA THAT THE SMITH-ANC TALKS COULD RESULT IN A SETTLEMENT WITHIN TWO MONTHS. SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE VICTORIA FALLS MEETING SHOWS VORSTER IS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN "EVENTUALLY DELIVER SMITH." (CONFIDENTIAL) LUSAKA 1642 (LIMDIS), 8/27.)
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